Konkan Railway Project

794. DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funding system of the Konkan Railway Project,

(b) whether there has been any change in the funding pattern due to the cost over-runs since commencement of the project

(c) if so the details thereof,

(d) whether there has been a huge out-go of foreign exchange in importing the foreign technology and equipment machinery at a later stage, not originally conceived in the project,

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the effect of the cost over-runs on the "Build Operate Transfer" (BOT) scheme envisaged in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) the details of the funding system are as under —

(1) Equity Capital

(2) Sale & Lease-back of Assets

(3) Market Borrowings

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The equity capital and the equity ratio has been increased An amount of Rs 150 crores is being financed through sale and lease-back of some of the Corporation's assets

(d) No Sir

(e) Does not arise

(f) The cost over run has necessitated a revision of the Debt Equity Ratio and also led to a higher level of borrowings for financing the project However the results show that there will be substantial increase in the level of goods as well as passenger traffic and sufficient operational surpluses would be generated to permit servicing and repayment of the debt obligations

Loss on Metro Railway Project

795 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Metro Railway Project Calcutta has projected a loss of Rs 20 crore for 1996-97 which is double than the figure of the previous year,

(b) if so the reasons therefor and

(c) the measures proposed to overcome this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) The estimated operational loss (excluding appropriation to pension fund) during 1996-97 is Rs. 1532 lakhs, as against Rs 1072 lakhs during 1995-96.

(b) Increase in the variable cost, expected rise in the consumption of electricity due to the increased area of operation and passenger comfort, general escalation in prices, etc.

(c) By effecting increase in the ridership through promotional measures like feeder bus services, attitudinal change in commuters and by keeping Govt expenditure under control to the extent possible, etc

Ranchi - Lohardaga Line

796 SHRI LALIT ORAON Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Ranchi-Lohardaga metre gauge line of the South-Eastern Railway into broad gauge and extend it upto Tori, and

(b) if so, the time by which the work of conversion of line will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) and (b) The survey for conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga (69 kms.) narrow gauge line to broad gauge and its extension upto Tori (44 kms.) has been taken up Further consideration of the project would be possible based on the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years

Contractors for Gauge Conversion

797 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "CBI unearths Rs 500 Cr. scam in gauge conversion" appearing in the *Economic Times* New Delhi dated February 27, 1996

(b) if so the facts of the matter reported therein

(c) the reaction of Government thereto

(d) whether any investigation has been made in this matter and if so, the outcome thereof and

(e) the follow-up action taken or being taken by the Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The newspaper had reported

(i) Irregularities in award of gauge conversion works on South Central Railway,

(ii) Withholding of permission by MOS(R) for detailed investigation involving a Joint

Secretary level officer and to hand-over all other cases to CBI.

(iii) Loss suffered by Railway over entire Indian Railways on gauge conversion works would exceed Rs 500 crores

(c) and (d) The investigation in tenders as well as execution of works has been made by the Ministry Certain irregularities in award of contract were noticed by the Ministry and further cases are handed over to CBI The matter regarding permission of registration of the case is being resolved in consultation with the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission There is no basis for loss of Rs 500 crores and no major irregularity has been observed on Zonal Railways other than S C Railway

(e) DAR action in consultation with CVC against officers and staff has already been initiated

Order for Wagons

798 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of wagons for which orders worth of Rs 40 29 crore had been placed with two Calcutta-Based companies by the Government.

(b) whether neither of these companies met G-93 specifications stipulated by the Railway Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO),

(c) if so, the reasons for not placing the orders with the Wagon India Limited (WIL) a joint sector undertaking

(d) whether the wagons sourced from unapproved suppliers could be a potential safety hazard in the railway operations

(e) if so the stage at which the matter stands at present

(f) whether any wagon manufactured by these unapproved firms have been got tested by the RDSO and

(g) if so findings in this regard and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) 600 Nos Wagons

(b) Neither of the companies meet the G-93 specification

(c) These are development orders aimed at introducing more sources of supply, since Indian Railway is running short of wagons and is unable to meet the ever increasing demand Placement of development order through Wagon India Ltd is not mandatory

(d) No, Sir

The wagons manufactured by any source as also the manufacturing facilities are inspected by RDSO The prototype is approved only if it meets the specifications and safety requirements fully All the wagons manufactured thereafter are also inspected by RDSO and approved, if they meet specifications and safety standards Same procedure is applicable to these orders also

(e) The firms are initiating steps for manufacture of prototype

(f) and (g) The stage has not reached as yet

Harassment by RPF

799 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding harassment of railway passengers by the Railway Protection Force

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) Out of the total 12 complaints received during the current year 4 have been found to be unsubstantiated. 5 are under enquiry and in the remaining 3 complaints which have been found true. 3 Constables have been dismissed six Constables have been suspended and against two of them criminal cases have been registered

Railway Projects to Private Sector

800 SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have offered several railway projects worth Rs 4390 crore to the private sector during the last one year

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

(c) the details of Projects alongwith estimated worth and the Private Sector Agencies to which the various Project have been allotted or are likely to be allotted

(d) whether the Government have considered the merits and demerits of allocation of projects to the Private Sector, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) and (b) With a sharp reduction in budgetary support for infrastructure development plans, the Indian Railways had identified some of the projects worth approx Rs